

In the Claims

Claims 1, 12 and 14 are amended.

Claims 2-4, 13, 15, 16 and 18 are cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 5-12, 14, 17, 18 and 19-22 remain in the application as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) One or more protected digital objects embodied on one or more computer-readable media, individual digital objects being embedded with at least one fingerprinting word produced in accordance with a method comprising:

defining a plurality of fingerprinting words, each fingerprinting word being unique and containing at least one spread sequence, wherein each fingerprinting word contains a plurality of Γ -symbols, each Γ -symbol containing $2c-1$ spread sequences, where c is the number of colluders that are desired to be defended against; and

assigning individual fingerprinting words to individual respective entities, the fingerprinting words serving to identify an entity to which it is assigned;

said fingerprinting words being structured to permit a collusion analysis to ascertain identities of potential colluders who change an associated fingerprinting word.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Original) The one or more protected digital objects of claim 1, wherein at least one digital object comprises a document.

6. (Original) The one or more protected digital objects of claim 1, wherein at least one digital object comprises a video object.

7. (Original) The one or more protected digital objects of claim 1, wherein at least one digital object comprises a music object.

8. (Original) One or more protected digital objects embodied on one or more computer-readable media and produced in accordance with a method comprising:

defining a plurality of fingerprinting words, each fingerprinting word being unique and containing at least one spread sequence, wherein each fingerprinting word contains a plurality of Γ -symbols, each Γ -symbol containing $2c-1$ spread sequences, where c is the number of colluders that are desired to be defended against, said fingerprinting words being structured to permit a collusion analysis to ascertain identities of potential colluders who change an associated fingerprinting word;

assigning individual fingerprinting words to individual respective entities who constitute potential colluders, the fingerprinting words serving to identify an entity to which it is assigned; and

embedding at least one fingerprinting word in at least one digital object.

9. (Original) The one or more protected digital objects of claim 8, wherein at least one digital object comprises a document.

10. (Original) The one or more protected digital objects of claim 8, wherein at least one digital object comprises a music object.

11. (Original) The one or more protected digital objects of claim 8, wherein at least one digital object comprises a video object.

12. (Currently Amended) A Γ -code data structure configured for use in an embedding process for protecting digital data, the Γ -code data structure comprising:

a memory;

a plurality of spread sequences in the memory, the spread sequences being arranged in blocks that are combinable to define fingerprinting words that are assignable to individual entities to which protected objects are to be distributed, wherein the blocks are combinable to define individual Γ -symbols, each Γ -symbol comprising $2c-1$ blocks, where c is the number of colluders that are desired to be defended against; and

said fingerprinting words being structured to permit a collusion analysis to ascertain identities of potential colluders who change an associated fingerprinting word.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) One or more protected objects comprising:
digital data embodied on one or more computer-readable media; and
a fingerprinting word embedded in the digital data, the fingerprinting word
containing at least one spread sequence, the fingerprinting word being associated
with an entity to which the object is to be, or has been distributed, wherein the
fingerprinting word contains a plurality of Γ -symbols, wherein each Γ -symbol
contains a plurality of spread sequences, wherein each Γ -symbol contains $2c-1$
spread sequences, where c is the number of colluders that are desired to be
defended against;

said fingerprinting word being structured to permit a collusion analysis to
ascertain one or more identities of potential colluders who change the
fingerprinting word.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Original) The one or more protected objects of claim 16, wherein
each fingerprinting word contains the same number of Γ -symbols.

18. (Cancelled).

19. The one or more protected objects of claim 14, wherein at least one
object comprises a document.

20. The one or more protected objects of claim 14, wherein at least one object comprises a music object.

21. The one or more protected objects of claim 14, wherein at least one object comprises a video object.

22. One or more computing devices embodying the one or more protected objects of claim 14.